



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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March 22, 2007

Sudan on the defensive

- Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali Al-Saddig yesterday rejected U.S. threats of sanctions against Sudan because of its refusal to allow the deployment of international forces in Darfur. Al-Saddig pointed out that the threat of American sanctions on Sudan was not new and reflected the view of certain “extremists” who continue their threatening policies around the world. He said that Sudan’s sovereignty is not affected by such threats. Al-Saddig expressed hope that the U.S. should learn from lessons derived from its foreign policy in other parts of the world. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Khartoum*)

- Sudan’s Justice Minister Mohamed Ali Al-Mardi rejected a proposal made by the European group on the UN Human Rights Council to form a team of experts to keep pressure on Khartoum to honor past recommendations on respecting the rights of civilians in Sudan’s Darfur region. Al-Mardi said that Sudan’s delegation would firmly oppose the European resolution. (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Sudani*)

- The UK’s representative to the UN, Amir Barry Jones, accused rebel groups of being responsible for the instability in Darfur. Jones further stated that the Sudanese government has to make “a life or death decision in the next few weeks regarding Darfur.” Jones called on the international community to support renewed talks between rebels and the government. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Reports of corruption in SPLM ranks

- The Secretary General of the Sudanese People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) Bagan Amum refuted press reports that his immunity has been lifted and he is now under investigation. Amum added that the lifting of immunity of Government of Southern Sudan Finance Minister Arthur Akwen is a routine procedure that does not constitute an

indictment. Amum further stated that the SPLM will extend its probe of corruption cases to members of the Government of National Unity. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, The Citizen, et al*)

- The State Minister at the Presidency, Telar Deng, said rumors that SPLM Secretary General Bagan Amum’s immunity was being lifted were “baseless.” He described those behind these rumors were “seeking to mislead public opinion in South Sudan.” He denied reports that First Vice President Salva Kiir had reshuffled some ministerial portfolios and advisory positions in the Government of Southern Sudan. (*Sudan Vision*)

President Al-Bashir: No justification for war

- Addressing a rally in Damazin (Blue Nile State) yesterday, President Omar Al-Bashir affirmed that “war is over forever.” The reasons for going to war no longer exist, he said. He called on opposition parties to join the unity government. (*Al-Sudani*)

Water and electricity cuts irk residents

- Residents in various parts of the country, including the capital and Nyala are expressing concern over frequent water service interruptions and power outages in recent days. A columnist cites government sources warning that this summer’s electricity supply will be inadequate. (*Al-Sudani*)

Quote of the Day:

“No one in the SPLM is above the law, not even its chairman or its secretary general.” - SPLM Secretary General Bagan Amum

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